

I also feel that the adult koel's efforts to throw off the crow nestlings was an extension of the instinct in koel nestlings to do away with other nestlings and eggs in their nest. This conclusion has added support as it has been observed that when a koel lays its eggs in the host nest, she also removes other eggs from the nest. It has been observed and recorded that koel do feed their offsprings that have left their nest.

This incident also definitely shows that the koel shows some interest in parental care, and is not completely devoid of the instinct of parental care.

Several problems require answers. Does the koel recognise its young after the long period of incubation? Whether the young was her own or the nest was a completely different one and the koel acted merely instinctively? Did the koel keep track of the nest in which she laid her egg so that she could recognise her young after hatching? Whether the male has any trace of parental instinct?

I am sure, these questions will encourage readers to be on the lookout for crows and the koel.

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DHRUV DIXIT

July 23, 1967.

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9. BLACKCAPPED KINGFISHER *HALCYON PILEATA* (BODDAERT) AT BHARATPUR, RAJASTHAN

During the Bombay Natural History Society's Bird Migration Study Project (1967-68) at Ghana Bird Sanctuary, Bharatpur (27° 13'N., 77° 32'E.) a Blackcapped Kingfisher was caught in our net on 9 Feb. 1968. This specimen was preserved and bears Reg. No. 22931 of the Society's bird collection. Another bird was seen in the same area later,

This bird is usually seen along the coasts and has not been recorded so far inland in western India though in the east it is known from Monghyr (Bihar) on the Ganges and eastern Assam.

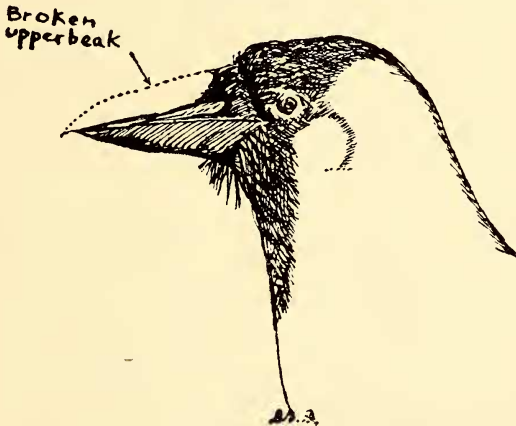
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
BOMBAY.
March 23, 1968.

B. R. GRUBH
J. D. PANDAY
P. B. SHEKAR

10. CROWS AND COMPANIONSHIP

(With a text-figure)

On the evening of 29 December 1965, I and my friend Rojer Finzel of the American Peace Corps stationed at Rajpipla were sitting on the terrace of my house when we saw an unusual sight, a crow (*Corvus splendens*) with a broken upper beak as in the text-figure.



We were wondering as to how it would feed itself. After watching it for a while I decided to take its photograph, and went into the house but on returning with the camera I was disappointed to notice that the crow had flown off.

On the morning of 31 December at about 7.30 a.m. I saw the bird again. It was trying to feed itself by bending its head to one side and scooping the food with the lower beak. It failed several times in its efforts to secure the food but in the end managed to place it on the lower beak and tilting its head upwards as birds do to drink water, swallowed the food with slow jerky movements.

When it was trying again to pick up another bit a couple of crows nearby came and started feeding it. This led me to the hasty conclusion